



## Newsletter of the National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees

June 2003

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## Made your reservation yet?

The 2003 annual NOPHNCSE conference, in conjunction with the HEPM training, is scheduled for June 16-20, 2003, in Des Moines, Iowa. The conference will be held at the West Des Moines Marriott. Most of you have already reserved your room at the Marriott. In fact, the block that was set up is full! If you have not yet made your reservation, please call the Fairfield Inn & Suites at 515-225-6100. But hurry - the block of rooms expires June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Fairfield is the overflow hotel and has a block reserved under NOPHNCSE. It is located across the street from the Marriott.

## Free Shuttle Service

The West Des Moines Marriott and the Fairfield Inn & Suites, the overflow hotel, offer complementary shuttle service to and from the airport and between hotels. When arriving at the airport, simply pick up the phone near the baggage claim for the WEST DES MOINES MARRIOTT. The shuttle will transport you to either hotel.

## Auction Items Needed for Scholarship Night

Scholarship Night is a time to introduce students attending the training conference. If the winners of the scholarship are at the conference, they are introduced as well. Items donated will be auctioned to raise money for scholarships. It has proven to be profitable for the NOPHNCSE Scholarship and Endowment Fund, fun for the participants and satisfactory to the people who walk away with new purchases.

If you plan on making a donation to the auction and would like to send it ahead of time, the Iowa state office has invited us to send them there: ATTN: KIM - HISPANIC CONFERENCE  
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service  
210 Walnut St.  
693 Federal BLDG  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

Through donations and auction items, NOPHNCSE will be awarding three \$700 scholarships this year!

Your contact is  
Amanda Hasemeier  
[Amanda.Hasemeier@pa.usda.gov](mailto:Amanda.Hasemeier@pa.usda.gov)  
Office 717-237-2236  
Home 717-774-2423

## Nevada State Conservationist Named

Livia Marques was selected as the new State Conservationist in Nevada effective June 29. In her new position, Livia will manage the state's natural resource conservation programs in Nevada.

Livia, a graduate from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in horticulture began her career as a GS-5 soil conservationist in North Carolina. She served as district conservationist in New Hampshire and Vermont, as state plant specialist in Maryland, area resource conservationist in North Carolina and assistant state conservationist for operations and assistant state conservationist for strategic planning and accountability in Florida.

## Your Daughter

By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, an alarming number of girls lose interest in math, science and technology, which means they won't qualify for most future jobs. That's why parents have to keep their interests alive. Check out [www.girlsgotech.org](http://www.girlsgotech.org).



Jose Acevedo was named NRCS Deputy Chief for Programs

## New Deputy Chief for Programs Named

Jose Acevedo was named NRCS Deputy Chief for Programs where he will manage the agency's natural resource conservation programs that provide environmental, societal, financial, and technical benefits. These programs not only include on-site benefits such as sustaining and improving agricultural productivity, but also other benefits such as cleaner, safer and more dependable water supplies, reduced damages caused by floods and other natural disasters, and

enhancing the natural resource base to support continuing economic development and recreation.

Jose began his NRCS career in 1972 as a GS-5, soil technician in Puerto Rico, and has also worked in the U.S. Virgin Islands, South Carolina, Georgia, New York and Washington D.C. In July 2000, he was appointed Associate Deputy Chief for Programs. Most recently he was selected by Chief Bruce Knight to serve as Acting Deputy Chief for

Programs. Jose also serves as the Natural Resources and Environment Mission Area Representative to the Secretary's Hispanic Advisory council and is a member of the USDA Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Leadership Board. In his 31 years of Federal Service, he has been recognized with 11 outstanding and 13 superior performance awards. Jose holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico in agronomy with a major in agricultural engineering.

## How to Become a Page for the United States Senate

The Senate Page Program exposes students to the daily operation of the U.S. Senate and enables them to witness firsthand the political process of the Senate, often referred to as the "greatest deliberative body in the world." Senate Pages must be sponsored by a senator. Eligibility is limited to juniors in high school who will be 16 on or before the date of the appointment.

There are only 30 page positions in the United States Senate which serve its 100 members. Therefore, not all senators are able to appoint pages. Due to the limited number of positions and the volume of interested students, competition is keen and, unfortunately, not all students who seek a position can be accommodated. Check out website of you members of congress for informa-

tion on the page program in your state, also check your governor's office. Many governors have page programs too. Any further questions should be directed to the following address or phone number:

Mrs. Kathryn Weeden  
Principal  
United States Page School  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-7248  
202-224-3926

## Member in Iraq

Edwin Almodovar wanted to let everyone know that he is in Iraq and doing fine. The following is his mail address:

SPC Almodovar, Edwin  
209th QM Co, unit # 91841  
APO, AE 09372-1841

We all wish Edwin the best of luck and a safe return home.

## Spanish Language Farm Bill Materials Available on NRCS Web Site

Information about Farm Bill programs is available in Spanish on the NRCS Web site. Recently updated fact sheets, key points, questions and answers, and program descriptions for three programs are available now, and materials for the other Farm Bill programs will be posted soon. You may view and download the pdf files at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/espanol/productos.html>

If there are questions, contact June Davidek at 202-720-3876 or [june.davidek@usda.gov](mailto:june.davidek@usda.gov) or Manuel Ayala at 202-720-1883 or [manuel.ayala@usda.gov](mailto:manuel.ayala@usda.gov).